

Documentation from
Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife



Maine Department of Inland
Fisheries and Wildlife
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Paul R. Lepage
Governor

Chandler E. Woodcock
Commissioner

March 28, 2013

John Storer
John B. Storer, P.E.
Auburn Water & Sewerage Districts
P.O. Box 414
268 Court Street

John,

The Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MDEP) has asked for written documentation from the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW) regarding the proposed application of an algaecide in Lake Auburn in 2013. The MDEP specifically requests the MDIFW to *"provide a best professional judgment that the discharge will not have an impact on the fishery management plan of the receiving water."*

Several documents provided by the Auburn Water and Sewer Districts relating to the proposed treatment have been reviewed, including the draft algaecide application plan, draft alternatives analysis, and application case studies. Some additional documents related to algaecide use in other states have also been reviewed. The Biological Conservation Database was also referenced to identify occurrences of any unique fish, wildlife and plant resources in Auburn Lake that could be impacted.

It is my understanding that a pesticide discharge management plan will require the District to provide updated information as new information, including monitoring and testing information used to support decisions relating to treatment details, and the MDIFW would request that this information be shared in a timely manner with key stakeholders, including MDIFW. This measure will ensure a continued collaborative discussion process regarding the actual details associated with treatment plans, including timing, scope, and frequency of treatment. These aspects of the treatment have only been conceptually discussed and presented. An understandable need for some latitude in the proposed treatment plan and monitoring warrants continued discussion with key stakeholders, including MDIFW, similar to that which has occurred to date. Ongoing consultation and discussion will minimize direct and indirect impacts to lake fisheries while striving to provide potable water.

Although the District does not propose use of the Algaecide as a long term treatment measure, additional future use of algaecide treatments would receive additional scrutiny by MDIFW. Should unanticipated adverse impacts to fisheries result in 2013, those impacts would likely be short lived and fisheries could likely be rebuilt within several years. As an interim strategy to address water quality concerns, the proposed "one time" use of an algaecide like copper sulfate, if administered under the aforementioned guidance, should not result in long term impacts to fisheries management plans, and if successful may reduce oxygen loss in the hypolimnion that resulted in last years' kill of lake trout. The proposed treatment as discussed is not anticipated to have a long term impact on lake fishery management plans.

The following is offered as an additional information request for consideration by the District. As proposed plankton tows will be conducted to monitor phytoplankton abundance before, during, and after treatment. Zooplankton will be captured as "by catch" during these phytoplankton tows, but there are no plans to inventory and assess whether zooplankton survive the proposed treatment. While it is recognized that only a portion of the lake will likely be treated, and it is likely no future applications will occur, understanding post-treatment zooplankton survival rates would provide meaningful information to support unplanned, subsequent applications by better understanding indirect fishery impacts. This request constitutes a planning consideration that may involve relatively little cost given the samples will already be collected under the proposed monitoring plan, so additional costs would be limited to lab analyses. Please discuss the merit of this request with Dr. Wagner for additional insight in cost and benefit.

As always, please feel free to call me if you have any questions or concerns (657-2345, x112).

Respectfully,



Francis Brautigam
Regional Fisheries Biologist
Sebago Lake Region

AUBURN WATER DISTRICT

MEMBER MAINE WATER UTILITIES ASSOCIATION

268 COURT ST. - P.O. BOX 414

AUBURN, MAINE 04212-0414

March 29, 2013

Francis Brautigam
Regional Fisheries Biologist
Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife
358 Shaker Road
Gray, Maine 04039

Subject: Possible Lake Auburn Algaecide Treatment – Confirmation of Zooplankton Inventory and Assessment

Dear Francis:

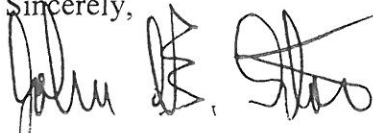
Thank you for your letter of March 28, 2013, related to our possible use of an algaecide treatment on Lake Auburn. We remain hopeful that a treatment is not required in 2013. However, if treatment does become necessary we appreciate your willingness to work with us to ensure a treatment is effective. We would consider "effective" to mean that we successfully prevented an algal bloom, while minimizing or eliminating any impacts to the fishery, zooplankton, and any other micro-invertebrates.

In your letter, you requested that we consider conducting a zooplankton inventory and assessment to determine the impact of an algae treatment. We discussed this request with Dr. Ken Wagner and concur that it would be valuable information to obtain, monitor and document. We do not expect to incur any significant costs and agree the information may have long-term benefit not only to us, but to fisheries biologists and limnologists as well.

We are working with Dr. Wagner and the CDM Smith Team on an extensive water quality testing program for Lake Auburn. The sampling program will be monitoring certain parameters to determine what may "trigger" the need for an algae treatment. We expect these will include things such as turbidity, secchi disc readings, phosphorus levels, algae counts and speciation determination, dissolved oxygen, etc. We will work to keep you updated on the results of the monitoring and testing.

Again, thank you for your support. IF&W is a critical stakeholder in ensuring we maintain excellent water quality on Lake Auburn.

Sincerely,



John B. Storer, P.E.
Superintendent, Auburn Water & Sewerage Districts